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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,834	04/18/2005	Taciana de Abreu e Silva	130033-1000	3760
37058	7590	12/14/2005	EXAMINER	
TIM HEADLEY GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP 1000 LOUISIANA, SUITE 3400 HOUSTON, TX 77002			MENEZES, MARCUS	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3677

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/531,834	SILVA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marcus Menezes	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed on April 18, 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. A copy of the foreign patent DE4326779 should be provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Regarding claims 4,5,7 and 8, the phrase "preferably" renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

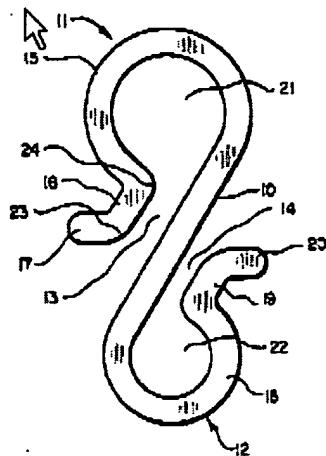
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Swenson et al. (US Patent No. 5,575,446).

Regarding claim 1-3, Swenson et al. discloses an item fastener characterized in that it is made in a single piece (11), comprising a central body (10) from which derives at least two lateral projections (15,18) that are extended in opposite directions and have

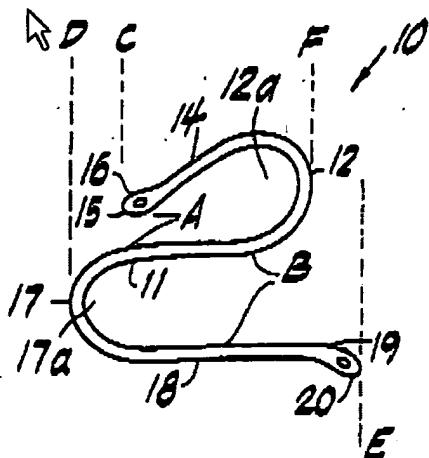
longitudinally opposite symmetrical shapes that are displaced outside and present lightly rounded internal grooves (21,22). (See below).



Regarding claims 4 and 5, Swenson et al. discloses a single piece (11) with a predetermined varying thickness. Regarding claims 6 and 7, Swenson et al. discloses a single piece made of a plastic that is flexible and non-corrosive. (See col. 3, lines 27-30).

5. Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Felcher (US Patent No. 5,497,636).

Regarding claim 1-3, Felcher discloses an item fastener characterized in that it is made in a single piece (10), comprising a central body (11) from which derives at least two lateral projections (14,18) that are extended in opposite directions and have longitudinally opposite symmetrical shapes that are displaced outside and present lightly rounded internal grooves (12a,17a). (See below).



Regarding claims 4 and 5, Felcher discloses a single piece (10) with a predetermined varying thickness. Regarding claims 6 and 8, Felcher discloses a single piece made of a wood that is flexible and non-corrosive. (See col. 3, lines 1-8).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 4,355,444

US Patent No. 5,555,607

US Patent No. 6,135,381

US Design Patent No. 372,188

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Menezes whose telephone number is 571-272-6284. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3677

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marcus Menezes
Examiner
Art Unit 3677


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER